

I

RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

Annual Reports

OF THE



MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

AND HOUSING OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1972

I N D E X

	<u>PAGE</u>
Members of the Public Health Committee and Officers	I
Preamble to Medical Officer of Health's Report... ..	II-V
Statistics and Social Conditions of the District	VI
Causes of Death 1972	VII
Infectious Diseases Notifications 1972	VIII
Immunisation Statistics..	IX
Preamble to Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer's Report...	1
Housing Statistics 1972..	2-3
Table of Inspections and Visits	4
Housing	5
Improvement Grants	5
Refuse Collection..	6
Sewerage and Drainage	7
Water Supply	7-8
Meat and Food Inspection	9-10
Diseases of Animals	10
Milk Sampling	10-11
Pest Control	11
Infectious Diseases	11
Movable Dwellings..	12
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	12-13
Factories Act	14-15

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
(as at December 1972)

Chairman: Councillor Maj. Gen. D.D.C. Tulloch

Vice-Chairman: Councillor G.F. Kunkler

Councillor Mrs. B.G. Agate
Councillor R.J. Butler
Councillor J.S. Haines
Councillor A.W. Sadler
Councillor R.N. Swanton
(Chairman of the Council)
Councillor S.T.N. Nutley
(Chairman of the Finance
and Rating Committee)

Councillor C.G. Buckland
Councillor F.V.G. Davies
Councillor M.B. Nicol
Councillor J.A. Whitmarsh
Councillor Brig. G. Wort, CBE, DL
(Vice-Chairman of the Council)
Councillor G.B. Lambert
(Vice-Chairman of the Finance
and Rating Committee)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY
(as at December 1972)

Medical Officer of Health:

F.D.F. Steede, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Clerk (M.O.H. Office):

Miss G.M. Boswell

Council Offices, 1 The Green, Marlborough.

Tel: Marlborough 2487 and 2474

Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer:

T.F. Harding, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

H.W. Gillian, M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant:

L.T. Jones

Refuse Collection Foreman and Rodent Operator:

A.F. Shorter

Clerk/Shorthand Typist (part-time):

Mrs. S. Eyles

Clerk/Shorthand Typist (part-time):

Mrs. L. Pollard

Shorthand Typist (part-time):

Mrs. G. Chave

Public Health Department, Council Offices, Pewsey, Wilts.

Tel: Pewsey 2261/2/3

The Medical Officer of Health acts in a similar capacity for the Borough of Marlborough, and the Rural Districts of Amesbury and Marlborough and Ramsbury. These combined districts have a population of 67,500 and an area of 235,289 acres. They have appointed a Joint Committee - the East Wilts. (United Districts) Joint M.O.H. Committee - to deal with all matters relating to the office of Medical Officer of Health. The Medical Officer of Health also performs duties for the Wiltshire County Council under the National Health Service, Education and Mental Health Acts.

RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

East Wilts (United Districts)
Joint M.O.H. Office,
1, The Green,
Marlborough.

Tel: Marlborough 2487/2474.

To: The Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1972, which seems likely to be my last one, since by the time one is in a position to write the 1973 report N.H.S. reorganisation will have extinguished the post of the M.O.H. It may be of some interest to know that this will be just over 100 years from the date when it became obligatory under the 1872 Public Health Act for every Urban and Rural Sanitary Authority to appoint a M.O.H. Although not mandatory, many of the larger towns had already appointed M.Os.H. under the earlier Public Health Act of 1848, and Liverpool, the first in the field, appointed Dr. Duncan as their M.O.H. in 1847. The earliest annual report which I can find in my office is that for 1913, one year before the Joint M.O.H. Committee came into being, which employed the same M.O.H. to cover the areas of all the constituent authorities. Since then I have all the reports to date except that for 1917, which seems was probably never published, and they make for the most part brief but extremely interesting reading. During this period there have been nine Medical Officers of Health, the longest serving one being Dr. Wilson who held the office from 1920 until March 1947.

In the 1913 report the total population of the district is given as 13,303 (1911 census). This showed very little alteration until after the second world war, and in 1946 was estimated at 13,250. However, in the 1950's there was a steady and mainly consistent rise to its present figure of 23,100. During this period, too, by far the greater improvements have been carried out in the provision of water and main drainage. In 1913 the births numbered 331, and the deaths 168, giving a death rate of 12.25 per 1,000 population. Infant mortality in 1913 is given as 61.75 per 1,000 live births and 94.07 for 1912, at a time when the national figure was about 105. In contrast last year's figure for the rural district was 12.0 per 1,000 live births.

At this time the M.O.H. was clearly very preoccupied with the control of infectious disease, notably diphtheria, pulmonary tuberculosis and scarlet fever. Clearly too, sporadic cases of enteric fever were common at a time when there was only a limited Council piped water supply at Pewsey and a piped supply at Ludgershall provided by a private company. The supply at Pewsey was attributed to be a good one, but the one at Ludgershall seems to have been of very doubtful purity, while the private supplies, mainly wells, on which the majority of the population relied on were clearly frequently heavily polluted. The first reference to sterilization of public water supplies that I can find are contained in the reports for 1939 and 1940, where it is stated that the Ludgershall supply is "now chlorinated", and that a year later Pewsey was similarly treated. Even up to 1939 a great part of the district depended on private supplies, and the last hamlet to be provided with a mains piped supply was Oare as late as 1966. Since the end of the second war not only have mains piped water been made available to all parishes, but main drainage has followed in its wake, and should be available to about 90 per cent of all properties by April 1974.

In addition the Council have built over 1,200 houses since 1946. All this achieved in the face of great difficulties is not only a tremendous tribute to the Council, my predecessors and fellow chief officers, but particularly to Mr. Harding who joined the Council in 1951 and has held the post of Chief Public Health Inspector for 20 years. In passing, the fact that, in this country in an average year, the small number of cases of enteric which occur are mainly imported by the few overseas travellers, mainly to the continent of Europe, is perhaps some indication of our comparative achievements nationally in the field of environmental health. While there is much more to do, one sometimes feels too little credit has been given to the large part which local government authorities have contributed to the present state of affairs.

I am grateful to Mr. Harding for his report which is included. I am also indebted to Dr. Lycett, the County Medical Officer, for supplying details of immunisation procedures carried out during the year.

The estimated mid-year population shows an increase of 260. Deaths are approximately the same at 175, giving a death rate when adjusted of 11.2 per 1,000 population, which while lower than the national average, is significantly higher than that for last year. Thirty-eight deaths occurred as a result of malignant disease, slightly more than the number recorded last year. Of these, ten were due to lung cancer. Deaths from coronary heart disease at 42 were almost the same as last year, as also were those from respiratory disease, at 20. I believe it is well known generally that in approximately nine cases out of ten for practical purposes lung cancer is caused by cigarette smoking, that the incidence rate for coronary heart disease is much higher in smokers, particularly in younger smokers, and that chronic bronchitis, if not caused by the habit, is severely adversely affected by it once acquired. I continue to be surprised by the hold the cigarette has, particularly on intelligent people, who continue to smoke in the knowledge that for many of them their health will be damaged and their expectation of life reduced.

Immunisation procedures reveal a reasonably satisfactory situation. Eighty-seven per cent of eligible children are currently vaccinated against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, a result which I believe is about as good as one can obtain, but vaccination against measles is very much lower. The County Health Department has, in recent years, given a great deal of priority to this matter and I hope that the N.H.S. will be able to continue to do so.

In 1949 Dr. Johnson, in his annual report, wrote as follows in discussing housing needs: "This in my opinion, still remains the most urgent item on the Council's agenda from the Public Health point of view" Today, without, in any way, denigrating the Council's achievements in this field, 1,291 Council houses later and with imaginative provision for specialised housing, particularly in the design of that intended for the elderly, and with 926 houses brought up to standard by means of the improvement grant procedure, Dr. Johnson's words remain just as valid. The demand for housing, far from showing signs of slackening, has increased. My latest information is that there are 740 applicants for housing on the Council's list. Any slackening in building has been due to factors outside the control of the Council, perhaps the most important has been the need to keep within the building cost yardstick. Whilst one has every sympathy with the need to keep building costs down, in my view it is inevitable that the standard of houses are suffering as a result.

In particular I feel that it is false economy to build houses today without comprehensive thermal insulation, to include such items as double glazing and insulation to cavity walls. This is particularly important when one is catering for the needs of the elderly who are more readily adversely affected by cold, at a time when not only is fuel becoming increasingly expensive, but is likely to become scarce as well. I believe, too, that we should give greater consideration to the design of all houses, particularly to the ground floor, to ensure that they can be easily negotiated by a person confined to a wheelchair. Such things as wider doorways and lever handles to taps and doors should become standard practice. If this were done there would, in the long run, be no basic increase in cost as at present when they have to be a special specification. Where sheltered housing for the elderly takes the form of grouped flatlets I believe it is necessary now to install a lift from the outset, since the lack of this facility is giving rise to considerable difficulties, particularly in those which have been in occupation for some years.

This has been yet another exacting year for local authority staff, and I am very pleased that the members of the Public Health Department, all credit to them, have managed to maintain their high standards of performance, often in very difficult circumstances.

In my previous reports I have stressed the need to retain as far as possible the relationship between the Medical Adviser and the Chief Public Health Inspector in the new District Councils. In the Kennet District Council the recommended establishment allows for a Director, who need not be a qualified Public Health Inspector, in control of a Health and Housing Group of two divisions. One of these divisions will be concerned with public health, and will be the responsibility of an Environmental Health Officer, almost certainly a public health inspector. This arrangement could lead to difficulties unless special provisions are made to allow for free unfettered two-way communications between the Medical Adviser and the officer designated as Chief Environmental Health Officer, at all times - particularly important in the control of communicable disease.

In his annual report the Chief Public Health Inspector of the Borough of Marlborough has referred to the wastage of young able public health inspectors, where no less than three have left the profession over the past 5 years. In addition, reorganisation has given a further adverse twist to the situation. In the six authorities for which I act, four of the C.P.H.Is. are retiring under the special redundancy arrangements, and your own C.P.H.I., Mr. Harding, has been appointed as a Housing Manager for which public health training is not necessarily required, although admittedly an advantage. Of the four who are retiring, only two are approaching the normal retiring age. These are all experienced officers whose expertise in this field we can ill afford to lose, and I have little doubt that the situation is being replicated all over the country. The future of public health depends very much on ensuring adequate recruitment to the profession, both as to numbers and quality, which in turn depend on a satisfactory career expectation. Since public health inspectors, unlike engineers, surveyors and financial officers, virtually do not exist outside the local authority field, the responsibility for this is a matter for local government. I regret that, unlike the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, the appointment of a Chief Public Health Inspector is no longer to be a statutory one. I am also sorry that public health inspectors are to lose their security of tenure. A recent factor which will, I believe, adversely affect both public health and the Public Health Inspectorate is the almost certain loss of responsibility for the control of meat inspection, and possibly, too, "meat based products" to the veterinary profession in order to comply and harmonise with E.E.C. procedures. This I regard as a retrograde step involving fragmentation of responsibility for food hygiene at local authority level, on which I have made a special report to all my Councils.

Finally I should specifically like to thank Mr. Harding and his staff, Dr. Lishman for acting as my Deputy, Dr. Wormald and the staff of the Public Health Laboratory for their continued help and frequent valued advice, and my secretary, Miss Boswell, for her help and co-operation, particularly for her work in preparing this annual report.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75,828
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Population, Registrar General's mid-year estimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,100
Number of inhabited houses and flats	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,535
Number of houses and flats owned by the Council..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,661
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1972	...	...	...	...	...	...	£714,517
Product of penny rate....	...	...	...	...	...	...	£6,749

VITAL STATISTICS

							M.	F.	Total
Live births - legitimate.	...	...	...	...	...	...	221	226	447
illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	6	14
						<u>Totals</u>	<u>229</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>461</u>
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...				20.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total births	...	...	...	...	...				3.0
Stillbirths - legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
						<u>Totals</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...				13.0
Total live and stillbirths - legitimate..	...	...	...	...	...	...	225	228	453
illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	6	14
						<u>Totals</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>234</u>	<u>467</u>
DEATHS...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92	83	175
Death rate per 1,000 population..	...	...	...	...	...	...			7.6
Infant deaths under one year - legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	5	11
illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
						<u>Totals</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...				26.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...				25.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	...	...	...	...	...				71.0
Neonatal deaths (under 4 weeks) - legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	8
illegitimate...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
						<u>Totals</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...				17.0
Early neonatal deaths (under one week) - legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
illegitimate...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
						<u>Totals</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>
Early neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	...				15.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined) per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...				28.0

Year	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Infant deaths	9	10	13	9	12
Infant mortality rate	17.0	18.0	22.0	17.0	26.0

CAUSES OF DEATH 1972

Cause of Death						Male	Female	Total
B19(1)	Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity, etc.	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
B19(2)	" " oesophagus	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
B19(3)	" " stomach	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
B19(4)	" " intestine	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
B19(6)	" " lung, bronchus.	...	...	...	...	8	2	10
B19(7)	" " breast.	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
B19(8)	" " uterus.	...	...	...	...	-	3	3
B19(9)	" " Prostate	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
B19(10)	Leukaemia..	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
B19(11)	Other malignant neoplasms..	...	...	...	...	7	5	12
B20	Benign and unspecified neoplasms...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
B46(3)	Mental disorders...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
B27	Hypertensive disease	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	...	...	...	...	25	17	42
B29	Other forms of heart disease	...	...	...	...	11	13	24
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	...	...	...	...	8	4	12
B46(6)	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
B32	Pneumonia..	...	...	...	...	6	7	13
B33(1)	Bronchitis and emphysema...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
B46(7)	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
B34	Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia..	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
B46(8)	Other diseases of digestive order..	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
B46(9)	Other diseases, genito-urinary system	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
B42	Congenital anomalies	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	...	...	...	...	3	-	3
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	...	...	...	...	-	3	3
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	3	-	3
BE48	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
Total all causes						92	83	175

Comparison with England and Wales

	Per 1,000 Population		Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Births (adjusted)	Death Rate (adjusted)	Infant Mortality	Stillbirths
Pewsey R.D.	16.4	11.2	26.0	13.0
England and Wales	14.8	12.1	17.0	12.0

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1972

Disease	Total Cases	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Analysis of Total Cases in Age Group												
				Under one year	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 65	65 +	Age unknown
Acute encephalitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute meningitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthrax. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective hepatitis ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Leprosy. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles. ...	22	-	-	-	2	3	1	1	11	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plague.. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Relapsing fever. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet fever...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis ...	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Typhoid fever...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhus.. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough...	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	29	3	-	1	2	3	1	2	12	3	4	-	-	1	-	-

IMMUNISATION AND SMALLPOX VACCINATION STATISTICS 1972

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Measles and Poliomyelitis Immunisations

Year of Birth		1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1963-67	1957-62	Others under 16
Primary Immunisations completed during 1972	Diph.	300	371	39	8	3	16	-	-
	Wh. cough	300	371	36	2	1	2	-	-
	Tetanus	300	371	39	8	3	16	1	-
	Measles	-	217	46	17	17	5	-	-
	Polio.	300	358	16	5	3	13	-	-
Reinforcing immunisations given in 1972	Diph.	-	84	128	11	108	358	8	-
	Wh. cough	-	71	115	11	10	31	-	-
	Tetanus	-	84	128	11	108	363	8	-
	Polio.	-	91	125	7	107	317	2	-

Smallpox Vaccinations

(Vaccination discontinued as a routine measure in early childhood September 1971)

Age Group	Months				Years		
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	5	6	3
Re-vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	-	9

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948, Section 47 and 1951

No action was taken under this legislation

RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

Council Offices,
Pewsey,
Wilts.

Telephone: 2261.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Council.

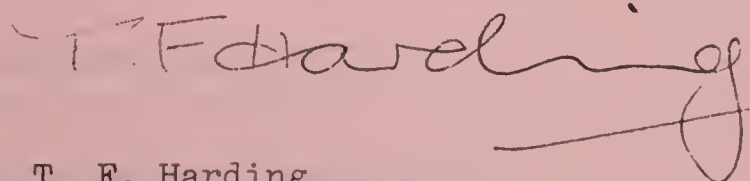
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1972.

Since this is certainly the last Annual Report that I shall write, and may well be, in fact, the last Annual Report in respect of the work of Pewsey Rural District Council, I had hoped that it would be possible to make it rather more than a bare collection of statistics. Unfortunately the pressures and uncertainties of local government reorganisation have borne very hard upon us during the course of 1973, and the Annual Report has rather fallen by the wayside.

It is appropriate that I should place on record my thanks to the Members of the Council for their generous support during my 22 years of office here, and to all my staff for the enormous help that they have given me.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,



T. F. Harding
Chief Public Health Inspector
and Housing Officer

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1972

1.	<u>Number of new houses and flats erected during the year</u>	
	(a) by local authority	18
	(b) private enterprise	89
2.	<u>Inspection of Dwellings during the year</u>	
	(i) Inspected for housing defects under P.H. Acts ...	23
	(ii) Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts ...	13
	(iii) Number of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	5
	(iv) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	16
3.	<u>Remedy of Defects by Informal Action</u>	
	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	15
4.	<u>Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health and Housing Acts)</u>	
	(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957 -	
	(i) number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	-
	(ii) number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices -	
	(a) by owners	-
	(b) by local authority in default of owners ...	-
	(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts -	
	(i) number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served	1
	(ii) number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices -	
	(a) by owners	1
	(b) by local authority in default of owners ...	-

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1972 (Cont'd.)

(C) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 and 27 of the
Housing Act, 1957 -

(i) number of Demolition Orders made	1
(ii) number of houses demolished as result of formal action... ..	-
(iii) number of undertakings accepted	1
(iv) number of undertakings completed	1
(v) number of houses where Closing Orders were made ...	3
(vi) number of houses where Closing Orders were cancelled .	2
(vii) number of houses closed as a result of Closing Orders or undertakings	4

(D) Proceedings under Sections 42 and 43 of the
Housing Act, 1957 -

(i) number of houses under which Demolition Orders were made	-
(ii) number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	-
(iii) number of houses demolished due to Public Health Acts	-
(iv) number of unfit houses purchased by Council and demolished as part of reconstruction schemes ...	-

(E) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957 -

(i) number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	-
(ii) number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were cancelled, as a result of premises having been made fit	-

5. Housing Act, 1957, Part IV - Overcrowding

(i) number of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of year	4
(ii) number of cases discovered during year	3
(iii) number of cases abated during year	2

TABLE OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Water supply ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	278
Drainage ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Movable dwellings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Refuse collection and disposal and collection of abandoned cars .								...	2,465
Bakehouses and Factories and Outworkers ...								...	32
Visits made by Inspector re Pest Control ...								...	287
Visits made by Operator for Treatment and Survey ..								...	759
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits (Schools, Agriculture, etc.)								...	124
Housing Visits under Public Health Act, 1936								...	71
Visits under Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Overcrowding and allocation of houses								...	1,097
Verminous premises ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Miscellaneous Housing Visits .								...	249
Improvement Grants ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	318
Infectious Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Slaughterhouse Visits .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Visits to Butchers, Fishmongers, etc.								...	15
Visits to Grocers and Greengrocers ..								...	49
Visits to food preparing premises generally								...	13
Market stalls and delivery vehicles .								...	8
Visits to licensed houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Visits to Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Milk Sampling Visits ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Ice Cream Sampling Visits ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Miscellaneous Food Visits ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises .								...	111
									<hr/>
									6,326
									<hr/>

HOUSING

I regret that, once again, it has not been possible to provide the statistical tables on housing demand which have caused so much interest in the past.

However, most members will be aware from the reports that they have had from me at meetings that the housing situation got very much worse during 1972. The impact of dear money has reduced the number of our tenants who would otherwise have been able to find accommodation in the private sector, and has meant that many young couples have put their names down on the housing list when otherwise they would have hoped to provide their own accommodation. As a result the rate of casual vacancies is now the lowest for several years, and the situation has been aggravated by the fact that during 1972 for one reason or another, we only managed to build 18 units of housing accommodation, as compared with 51 in the previous year, and this has had the inevitable effect of increasing the waiting list and making it much more difficult to deal with urgent cases at the speed to which we are accustomed.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The usual table showing the numbers and types of improvement grants approved during the year with comparative figures extending back to 1964 is given below.

The relaxation of grant conditions has meant that many of these grants in 1972 went towards the provision of second homes, which is not, to my mind, the true and original purpose of the scheme, and for the first time for many years I think it can be truthfully said that the improvement grant scheme has not made its usual effective contribution to the improvement of housing conditions for the local population.

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Discretionary Grants approved	56	39	26	26	19	16	47	46	38
Standard Grants approved	12	11	9	14	20	17	11	7	3
Average total cost of discretionary improvement schemes	£897	£867	£1165	£867	£963	£1346	£1430	£2043	£2156
Average percentage grant	36.9%	36.1%	28.3%	38.3%	34.0%	40.0%	46.8%	40.0%	37.5%
No. of houses im- proved during year by Standard Grant									1
No. of houses im- proved during year by Dis- cretionary Grant									38

REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION

This has continued satisfactorily during the year, with very few complaints from householders as to either the regularity or the quality of the service.

The Council have always paid close attention to the use of the most effective vehicles for this purpose, and we have always been very fortunate in the quality of the labour that we have been able to attract.

The district was kept substantially free of litter and scrap by vigorous use of our Civic Amenities Act powers, and by regular collections from laybys and other points where rubbish of this kind is deposited.

Abandoned cars have been dealt with very swiftly, and during the year 21 were removed from various parts of the district.

The recession made waste paper collection a totally uneconomical proposition, and indeed for a while it was quite impossible to sell the paper. As a result the salvage income as shown in the table given below was very poor compared with the previous year. Owing to uncertainties as to the policy of the new Kennet District Council, and particularly in view of the fact that the whole pattern of refuse disposal in the County will have to undergo a change, it has not been thought advisable to embark on a campaign to improve salvage collection.

SALVAGE RESULTS 1972

	£.	p.
Waste Paper	227.	33
Rags	25.	21
Metals	-	
Scrap Vehicles and other metals from Tip	145.	75
	<u>£398.</u>	<u>29</u>

As a result of discussions at County level it became clear that a very serious shortage of refuse tipping sites was developing, and accordingly negotiations were opened with the Ministry of Defence for the purchase of a further five acres of land adjoining the Council's tip at Everleigh, and there is every reason to suppose that these negotiations will be brought to a successful conclusion during 1973. Planning permission for this development was granted without difficulty, and these arrangements will mean that the Kennet District Council will at least have a breathing space in regard to part of their district, as otherwise all the refuse would have had to be taken, at considerable expense, to the incinerator at Swindon.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Preparations continued for the sewerage of the North Western Parishes of the district, the sole remaining large area at present without main drainage, and it is hoped that this work will be put in hand prior to reorganisation.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supplies, both public and private, have been continuously monitored during the year, and the sample results are shown in the table below.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES - SAMPLE RESULTS

Netheravon, Enford, Upavon,
Charlton, Rushall, North
Newnton, Manningfords,
Pewsey, Woodborough,
Wilcot, Burbage, Milton
Lilbourne, Easton Royal,
Collingbourne Kingston
and Ducis, Alton, Wootton
Rivers.

Chlorinated supply from boreholes owned
by the South Wilts Water Board.
pH value 7.9. Total hardness 199 p.p.m.
100 bacteriological samples taken.
4 non-faecal pollution.

Ludgershall, Chutes.

Chlorinated water purchased in bulk from
Southampton Corporation Waterworks.
pH value 7.5. Total hardness 235 p.p.m.
51 bacteriological samples taken.
All satisfactory.

North Tidworth.

Chlorinated water from War Department source.
pH value 7.5. Total hardness 210 p.p.m.
29 bacteriological samples taken.
All satisfactory.

Everleigh.

Chlorinated water from War Department source.
33 bacteriological samples taken.
All satisfactory.

The table which follows shows the mode of supply to dwellings in the district, and is in the usual form but brought up to date to the end of 1972:-

PARISH	Number of dwellings supplied from public mains		Population supplied from public mains		
	Inside the dwelling	By Standpipe	Inside the dwelling	By Standpipe	
Alton	67	-	201	-	
Burbage	426	-	929	-	
Charlton	14	-	51	-	
Chute	86	1	258	3	
Chute Forest	34	-	83	-	
Collingbourne Ducis	209	-	543	-	
" Kingston	110	-	381	-	
Easton Royal	93	-	208	-	
Enford	212	-	657	-	
Everleigh	64	-	210	-	Min. of Def. supply.
Fittleton	104	-	332	-	
Huish	2	-	4.8	-	Private piped supply.
Ludgershall	(842	-	2,778	-	Public supply.
	(70	-	231	-	Ministry of Defence supply.
Manningford	157	1	408	2.6	
Milton Lilbourne	134	-	402	-	
Netheravon	337	2	1,268	7	
North Newnton	135	-	312	-	
North Tidworth	(286	-	1,258	-	Council Estate.
	(2,087	-	8,716	-	Private and Ministry of Defence lettings
					Ministry of Defence supply.
Pewsey	851	-	2,468	-	
Rushall	11	-	33	-	
Upavon	(283	-	960	-	Public supply.
	(199	-	617	-	Ministry of Defence supply.
Wilcot	200	-	539	-	
Wilsford	7	-	21	-	
Woodborough	98	-	244	-	
Wootton Rivers	90	-	202	-	

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

331 visits were made to food premises during the year, an improvement over 1971's improved figure, but not enough to satisfy the requirements of the district.

Ice-cream sampling was also continued during the year with rather more satisfactory results than in the previous year, and the table given below shows the results.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLE RESULTS 1972

19 samples soft ice-cream	-	Grade 1
2 samples soft ice-cream	-	Grade 2
1 sample soft ice-cream	-	Grade 3

The following table shows the numbers and types of food premises in the district, and also shows the extent to which they comply with Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 (provision of wash basins and sinks):-

<u>Type and No. of Premises</u>		<u>No. complying with Reg. 16</u>	<u>No. to which Reg. 19 applies</u>	<u>No. complying with Reg. 19</u>
Butchers	9	9	9	9
Bakers	7	7	7	7
Fishmongers	3	3	3	3
Greengrocers	2	2	2	2
Cafes	8	8	8	8
Fishfriers	5	5	5	5
Food Factories	8	8	8	8
Grocers and General Stores	57	57	41	41
Licensed Houses and Clubs	50	50	50	50

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

1. For the storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream	-	71
2. For the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream	-	1
3. For fish frying	-	5
4. For sausage manufacture and preparation of meats	-	7

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in this district.

Unsound Food Condemned

The following food was condemned by your inspectors as unsound during 1972:-

	cwts.	lbs.	ozs.
Meat	-	-	-
Assorted frozen foods	10	-	-

Poultry Inspection

1.	No. of poultry processing premises within the district	1
2.	No. of visits made to these premises ...	12
3.	Total number of birds processed during the year..	50,000
4.	Types of birds processed	Broilers and Turkeys
5.	Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	2%
6.	Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption	440 lbs.

It should be noted that no evisceration of poultry takes place at the premises concerned; the birds are merely killed and plucked.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

There are only two premises in the district which are now licensed to boil pig swill. Both were visited and inspected during the year, and the premises and methods were found to be quite satisfactory.

MILK SAMPLING

84 samples of milk of all kinds were taken during the year, continuing the trend of a reduction in the numbers taken. This does not indicate a lessening of cover for the public, but merely that the numbers of producers and retailers in the district are continually being reduced by mergers.

Sample Results 1972

Samples subjected to Methylene Blue Test	63
Samples subjected to Ascheffenburg Test	51
Samples of untreated milk failing Methylene Blue Test ..	1
Samples of heat treated milk failing Methylene Blue Test	1
Samples of heat treated milk failing Ascheffenburg Test.	NIL
Samples subjected to biological examination for presence of Tubercle Bacilli.. ...	12
Samples showing positive tuberculosis reaction	NIL
Samples subjected to Ring Test for presence of Brucella Abortus..	12
Samples showing positive reaction to Ring Test	NIL
Samples of milk showing positive Brucella Abortus reaction on biological examination ...	NIL
Samples of sterilised milk subjected to Turbidity Test..	3
Samples of sterilised milk failing Turbidity Test. ...	NIL
Samples of ultra heat treated milk subjected to Statutory Test.	18
Samples of ultra heat treated milk failing Statutory Test	NIL

PEST CONTROL

301 premises were treated by the operator during the year, 269 being disinfested from rats and mice and 32 from other pests. This is an increase over the figures for 1971, but there is no particular significance in this increase, so far as can be ascertained.

All the Council's sewers, sewage works and the refuse tip were treated or test baited, and no cases of warfarin resistance were detected.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

In view of our other preoccupations during the year it was fortunate that the number of visits that had to be made in connection with infectious disease investigations showed a reduction as compared with 1971 and 1970.

In my report for 1971 I referred to an outbreak of salmonella anatum amongst cattle in a dairy herd which involved us in a good deal of consequential sampling of the dairy products from the premises concerned. During the year under review this was continued, and some 60 samples of dairy cream were taken, all of which proved negative for salmonella anatum.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Problems continued to be encountered during the year in keeping conditions at one large and one small site in the area up to the standard required, and all the caravan sites in the district continued to pose problems from a housing point of view in that a number of 'vans had become occupied by families with young children, for whom this type of accommodation is really totally unsuitable.

By the end of the year conditions on one site had become so acute, and its pending closure would have made such a serious housing problem, that after much discussion the Council accepted a recommendation from the officers that the site should be purchased and subsequently laid out to the standards that are required. This will enable the Council to control the type and size of 'van that is put upon the site, and also to monitor the tenancies, and will, in the long run, solve problems that have plagued us for several years.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

111 visits of inspection were made in connection with the above-mentioned Act during the year, and the table that follows shows the number of defects found and remedied during the course of these inspections.

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Inadequate cleanliness	0	0
Inadequate heating	0	0
Inadequate lighting	0	0
Inadequate washing facilities	0	1
Defects in floors, passages and stairs	0	0
No First Aid Boxes	0	2
Inadequate accommodation for outdoor clothing	0	0
Absence of Thermometer	0	3
Inadequate ventilation	0	1
Inadequate sanitary accommodation	0	0
Inadequate seating	0	0
Inadequate guarding of dangerous machinery	0	0
Abstract of Act not shown	1	3
Overcrowding	0	0

TABLE A - REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises (1)	Number of premises registered during the year (2)	Total number of registered premises at end of year (3)	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year (4)
Offices	1	27	13
Retail shops	2	82	68
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	1	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	9	14
Fuel storage depots	-	5	1
<u>TOTALS</u>	3	124	96

TABLE C - ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN
REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
Offices	61
Retail shops	290
Wholesale departments, warehouses	-
Catering establishments open to public	4
Canteens	6
Fuel storage depots	27
<u>Total</u>	388
<u>Total Males</u>	167
<u>Total Females</u>	221

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1972 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY IN THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspection (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecu- ted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	32	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	52	32	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable tempera- ture (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	1	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	5	2	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-

